

EUREKA! THE NEWS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF EUREKA TOWNSHIP, MN.

OCTOBER, 2005



Eureka Township Supervisors
Meet monthly, 2nd Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Connie Anderson, Chair
952-469-2355, term to 3/07
Dan Rogers, Vice Chair
952-469-3739, term to 3/06
Gloria Belzer, term to 3/08
952-469-8488
Mark Malecha, term to 3/06
507-645-4015
Cheryl Monson, term to 3/08
952-469-1835

Town Clerk/Treasurer
Nanett Leine, 952-469-3736

Eureka Planning Commission
Meet monthly, 1st Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Cory Behrendt, Chair
952-985-5411, term to 4/06
Mike Greco, Vice Chair
952-469-8418, term to 4/08
Kevin Flaherty, term to 4/08
612-325-7361
Francie Madden, term to 4/06
952-469-2958
Rich Stevens, term to 4/07
651-463-4609

Township Contact
Nanett Leine, 952-469-3736
Monday, 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Thursday, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
At other times, calls transferred to voice mail; all calls are returned.

- for general information
- to get on meeting agenda
- for building, etc. permit info.

Emergency fire, police, ambulance
call 911

E-mail: eureka@frontiernet.net
Website: www.eurekatownship-mn.us

- official meeting minutes
- ordinances, calendar, etc.

Official Notices published in Lakeville This Week Life and Times newspaper, and posted on bulletin board outside the Town Hall, 25043 Cedar Ave.

Editor: Carolyn Papke, 651-463-8546
Mailings by Wally Bohrn & family

INTERCEPTOR (MUSA) LINE MEETINGS

By Connie Anderson, Chair

Last year the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) and Bonestroo Rosene Anderlik & Assc. studied and designed possible routes for a sanitary sewer pipe (interceptor line) to convey wastewater from fast-growing Elko-New Market area to an existing line in Lakeville for treatment at the MCES wastewater plant in Empire Township by 2010. (This unplanned growth is causing raw sewage overflow in the Vermillion River, affecting the river and many Eureka properties.) The pipeline is being directed through Eureka as it is more cost effective and to protect the Vermillion River Watershed.

An informational meeting was held in Eureka Township Aug. 2. Then our Supervisors and Planning Commission members met with the consultant, Met Council and Dakota County planner to obtain consistent information. There are now two options currently being advocated by MCES within Eureka: 1) 250th to Dodd Blvd. north to Lakeville, or 2) 245th to Dodd Blvd. north to Lakeville, both with a lift station at the intersection of 235th Street and Dodd Blvd; In 2030 there is an opportunity for Eureka to have access to the system by a proposal for a line from 235th Street East to Cedar Ave.

The Met Council will sponsor a public meeting at Eureka Town Hall in mid-November. Check the "Official Notices" box at the left for posting locations. All citizens are encouraged to attend this critical meeting.

BOARD HAPPENINGS

By Cheryl Monson, Supervisor

As summer comes to an end, so does the completion of the landscape for the **New Town Hall**. In addition to the many people thanked in the April '05 newsletter for donations and volunteering of time in acquiring the town hall, we wish to recognize the following people and businesses for helping to complete the landscaping:

Bachman's Nursery for trees and shrubs, Cross Nursery for trees, shrubs and planting, Ken DeMaster for grass seeding, and Erik Leine for ground preparation for seeding.

We are waiting for an answer from Dakota City to see if they are interested in accepting our donation of the **Old Town Hall**. If they accept, a plaque will acknowledge that it was donated by Eureka Township, although they will determine the building's use. If they decline, demolition will be scheduled as soon as possible. Regardless, the following items from the Old Town Hall will be sold to the highest bidder. Any unclaimed items will be disposed of at the discretion of the Town Board. Bids must be received by the Town Clerk on or before 3 p.m. November 7, 2005. List your name, address, phone, item and amount bid in a sealed envelope marked "Last Chance Bid" which will be opened at the 11/14/05 Town Board meeting. These items may be reviewed during regular office hours:

handicap porta-potty	counter 26"x96"	6 padded chairs
shelf box with glass front	sink	3 chairs on rollers
small mirror	heater	25 metal folding chairs (fair)
piano	Frigidaire stove	22 folding chairs (very rusty)
16 old music books (same)	tall wooden window	2 wooden teacher chairs
tall wooden cabinet	electric stove	handicap ramp
side table (chair) 8"x10"x24" tall	kitchen table (wood top/metal legs) 43"x31"	
1 home-made wood table 88"x32"	1 home-made wood table 34"x72"	

CURRENT TOWN BOARD ISSUES

The Town Board is continually in the process of making decisions about Building Permits, Split Lots, Non-Conforming Use Permits, Conditional Use Permits, and issues that are not in compliance with our Ordinances. For specific information, refer to the minutes of Town Board Meetings on our website.

ELECTION OF TOWN BOARD SUPERVISORS:

Candidates wishing to run for Eureka Town Board Supervisor positions 3 & 4, may file for office with the Town Clerk beginning Tuesday, January 3, 2006 and ending Tuesday, January 17, 2006 at 5:00p.m. The election for these 3-year positions is March 14, 2006.

NUISANCE OR NEIGHBOR COMPLAINTS

Occasionally residents send complaints, signed or unsigned, to the Town Board expecting them to resolve resident problems. Policing of the community and its ordinances is under the direct control of the County Sheriff's office. Use this procedure:

- 1) Issues must be reported immediately to the Sheriff's office. The Data Privacy Act keeps your name confidential at all government levels, and you must give your name, address and contact number along with your complaint.
- 2) You may notify the Town Board of your actions, also leaving your name address and contact number, so the Town Board is aware of the kind of problems encountered. The Township cannot follow up on a complaint if the complainant does not disclose the required information.
- 3) An official from the Sheriff's office will contact you in a timely manner.

FARMLAND AND NATURAL AREA PROGRAM

by Bev Topp, Chair of citizen input for project review

The Dakota County Farmland and Natural Area Program (FNAP), funded through a voter-approved referendum in November 2002, works cooperatively with landowners to permanently protect productive, agricultural land to help sustain a thriving agricultural economy in the county. The program also works with landowners and a wide variety of partners to protect, restore, and connect threatened natural areas to ensure that the ecological, social, and financial benefits of these areas can be maintained and enhanced.

To date, FNAP has acquired six agricultural easements totaling 648 acres with the 124-acre Harmer easement in Eureka Township, delayed due to an existing pipeline restriction. Seven new farm owners are willing to sell agricultural easements on 1145 acres. Three natural areas totaling 95 acres have now been protected in Eagan and Rosemount, an additional 470 acres in Empire Township, and 12 acres in Lakeville will be protected by the end of November. Five other natural area projects, including two in Eureka, are in varying stages of progress.

A total of 37 land protection applications, totaling nearly 4,000 acres, were submitted during the latest application round which ended on September 16th, 2005. The majority of the 2003 and 2004 projects, when completed, have the potential to leverage additional funds from non-county sources totaling \$12,000,000, a significantly larger amount than the county land acquisition potential costs of slightly over \$7,500,000.

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT EUREKA ORDINANCE.....

These are quick ordinance synopses; for complete information, refer to Eureka Township Ordinances. They are available from the Town Clerk at \$25 for hard copy, \$2 for CD disk, or can be accessed on our website, or at Farmington or Lakeville Libraries, or Eureka Town Hall, or the County Law Library.

Ordinance 3: Zoning, Chapter 8 (p 74-77): The purpose of **Signs on Private Property** is to protect the natural and scenic beauty of the roadside, protect property values and reduce potential traffic hazards. "No sign shall be erected, constructed, altered, rebuilt, or relocated, until a permit for the same has been issued by the Town Board." This includes business sales signs.

There are exceptions for name & address, decals, flags & emblems of public organizations, handicapped parking, private drive signs, government & utilities public signs, security and warning signs, temporary real estate signs, and garage/yard sale signs. However there are specific requirements and limitations of size or timing for these exceptions. Check out the details. Only official highway signs are allowed in the public right-of-way. Announcement signs, including political signs must be placed 20 feet back from your front lot line (or 53 feet back from the centerline of township roads).

Ordinance 4: Public Safety, Chapter 4 (page 89-91): Other than in lawful defense of person, family or property, necessary law enforcement, or shooting of predators, **Firearms** ordinances state:

- Shooting or carrying unencased firearms is prohibited, except a landowner and expressly invited guest may shoot within that property but not within 500 feet of any building or residence, nor to create a danger to other persons. Persons under the age of 18 must hold a firearms safety certificate recognized by Mn. Dept. of Conservation or be accompanied by a parent, guardian or adult with written parental permission.
- Persons cannot possess, control, carry firearms who in the previous five years have been convicted of a felony, weapons violation, committed to mental, drug, alcoholic institutions or while under the influence of drugs and alcohol.
- Except in conformance with a validly issued state permit, carrying & transporting hand guns is unlawful other than at one's own residence.
- Possession and transporting of assault weapons is unlawful for any purpose whatever.

Ordinance 4: Public Safety, Chapter 2, Section 18B (page 88): A reminder about **Snow Plowing** when the snow starts to pile up. It is illegal and punishable as a misdemeanor to plow, shovel, blow, or place snow onto Township roadways, or other **obstructions** in the right-of-way such as rocks, vehicles, piled materials, etc. (see **Ordinance 4, Chapter 2, Section 6 (page 85)**).

PLANNING COMMISSION MESSAGE by Cory Behrendt, Chair

Where Is The Future Of Eureka Township... A Strategic Approach

Starting September 19th, the Planning Commission has begun the process of creating a strategic vision that will guide the Township toward a sustainable development plan. Over the next four months, a request for proposal will be created that will enlist the help of a professional planner to guide the Township through the process. This strategic vision will guide zoning, comprehensive plan updates and ultimately the future of our township.

When you consider the many influences that surround our Township, unique environmental traits and individual histories and opinions, this is sure to be a challenge to our Township. Our desire is to guide this Township to a common vision that most people will be pleased with. This will be no small task, and the process used must and will be based on focused citizen input from the entire Township.

As we move through this process we ask that all members of the Township take an active role in helping guide our future. There are few topics that bring a more passionate response than land use considerations; and the Planning Commission looks forward to working with all citizens in an enthusiastic and respectful way. We look to our Township to also provide their concerns and guidance with equal considerations.

The Planning Commission will meet the 3rd Monday of the month from September to December to create the request for proposal that will then be sent to professional planners. We will then select a planner to guide us through the processes and objectives we have established.

2005 EUREKA WILDLIFE

Compiled from informal citizens' survey, call 651-463-8546 to add to the list. Check out www.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/animap for County Biological Survey info for Dakota Cy.

Water Birds

Ducks: Mallard, Wood, Blue-winged Teal
Egret, Great Heron, Great Blue Goose, Canada

Birds of Prey

Eagle, Bald Northern Harrier
Kestral, American Owl, Great-Horned
Hawks, Red-tailed, Sharp-shinned, Broad-winged

Game Birds

Bobwhite, Northern Pheasant, Ring-necked
Wild Turkey

Song Birds

Blackbird, Redwing Bluebird, Eastern
Bluejay Bunting, Indigo
Cardinal, Northern Catbird, Gray
Chickadee, Black-capped Cowbird, Brown headed
Crow, American Flicker, Northern
Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray Goldfinch, American
Grackle, Common Grosbeak, Rose-breasted
Horned Lark House Finch
Hummingbird, Ruby-throated Junco, Dark-eyed
Killdeer Kingbird, Eastern
Kingfisher, Belted Kinglet, Ruby-crowned
Mourning dove Nuthatch: White-breasted, and Red-breasted
Oriole, Baltimore Ovenbird
Phoebe, Eastern Robin, American
Sparrows: American Tree, Chipping, Song, White-throated.
Starling Swallows: Barn, Tree
Tanager, Scarlet Thrasher, Brown
Warblers: Blackburnian, Yellow-rumped
Waxwing, Cedar Wren, House
Woodpeckers: Downy, Hairy, Red-bellied, Pileated

Amphibians, Reptiles

Turtles: Snapping, Painted, Blanding's. Garter Snakes
Toads; Frogs: Northern Leopard, Tree.

Butterflies

Monarch Red Admiral
Swallowtails: Spicebush, Eastern Tiger, Eastern Black

Mammals

Badger Beaver Coyote Deer Field mice Fox
Ferral cats Mink Opossum Pocket Gopher
Rabbits Raccoon Skunk Squirrels: red, gray

Rare

Bear --several years ago Cougar in wetlands, 2004

Auto Salvage, Junk & Scrap Metal Info

See July Newsletter re: Junk Vehicles not allowed on private property (Ord. p. 77) See Ord. p. 13 for complete definition of junk vehicle, i.e. in-operable, partly dismantled, not properly licensed/insured in Mn.

Who What Cost

VIKING AUTO SALVAGE 651-460-6166

Automobiles, buses, scrap metals & small farm machinery.
(Fiberglass boats must go to landfill)

Usually free. If price of scrap metal is down, the highest fee is around \$50. Charge for buses is \$200-300.

U PULL R PARTS 651-322-1800 Usually will pick up for free.

Junk Automobiles. No boats, farm equipment or buses.

CEDAR AUTO PARTS RECYCLING 952-492-3300

Any junk vehicle, some farm machinery, scrap metal.

Will pick up for free. If junk is brought to Cedar

Auto Parts, they will pay for scrap by the ton.

SCRAP BUSTERS, INC. 952-461-2800 Call for an estimate.

Farm equipment, cars, buses, boats. Will clean up property excluding hazardous waste such as paint cans, etc.

JUNK SQUAD 952-828-9999 Call for an estimate.

Appliances, furniture, electronics, garage items & more. Will do all the loading & cleanup. No vehicles/hazardous waste.

TOWNSHIP ACTIVITIES

NOTE FROM THE TOWN CLERK:

•Volunteers interested in helping with Town Hall chores of washing windows, watering plants and shrubs and maintaining the landscaping should contact the town clerk.

•A donation of a small refrigerator for the township offices would be greatly appreciated.

•Deputy Clerk/ Treasurer **Jeannie Nordstrom** has resigned from her position. A special thank you to Jeanne for helping out and filling in so I could get away on vacation this summer.

Job position open: Deputy Clerk/ Treasurer:

• Person would need to be available to fill in for the Clerk/ Treasurer in case of illness, injury, vacation, etc.

• 2 all-day paid training sessions in March & July by Minnesota Association of Townships.

• At this time there are no scheduled set hours for this position.

• Pay \$12.50 for time worked, Town Board Meetings \$50.00 per meeting, Special Meetings \$35.00 per meeting, training sessions \$50.00 per session.

• Upon employment, in-house training sessions will be established by the town board.

Persons interested in being put on the request list for meetings, agendas and minutes: Send e-mail address to the clerk (eurekatn@frontiernet.net) and they will be added to the list for current updates of monthly calendar, agendas, happenings, etc. Blind copies are sent, so e-mail addresses are kept private.

EUREKA CALENDAR - events at Eureka Town Hall unless otherwise indicated.

Oct. 3	7:00 p.m.	Monthly Planning Commission Meeting
Oct. 11	7:00 p.m.	Monthly Township Supervisors Meeting
Oct. 17	7:00 p.m.	Special Planning Commission Meeting
Nov. 7	7:00 p.m.	Monthly Planning Commission Meeting
Nov. 14	7:00 p.m.	Monthly Township Supervisors Meeting
Mid-November		Met Council Meeting on the Interceptor (MUSA) Line
Nov. 21	7:00 p.m.	Special Planning Commission Meeting
Dec. 5	7:00 p.m.	Monthly Planning Commission Meeting
Dec. 12	7:00 p.m.	Monthly Township Supervisors Meeting
Dec. 19	7:00 p.m.	Special Planning Commission Meeting

Eureka Township
P.O. Box 576
Lakeville, MN 55044

Phone 952-469-3736
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Website:
<http://eurekatownship-mn.us>